

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 DHA-02 L-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SCS-03 SCCT-01 AID-05 SCA-01 /045 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:DHCLARE

APPROVED BY ARA/CEN:DLAZAR

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 176281

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CDES (CYPHER, MICHAEL J.)

SUBJECT: GOH REPORT ON CYPHER DETENTION AND MURDER

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 3200

1. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT PREFERABLE TO MAKE ONE MORE INFORMAL APPROACH TO GOH BEFORE TABLING NOTE FORMALLY PROTESTING DELAY IN RECEIVING FULL REPORT WE REQUESTED JULY 11. WE BELIEVE INFORMAL APPROACH MORE LIKELY TO EVOKE POSITIVE RESPONSE AND LESS SUBJECT TO MIS-INTERPRETATION THAN NOTE AT THIS TIME, ALTHOUGH GOH MUST UNDERSTAND REASONS FOR AND DEPTH OF OUR CONCERN.

2. UNLESS EMBASSY PERCEIVES OVER-RIDING OBJECTIONS, AMBASSADOR SHOULD SEEK EARLY MEETING WITH CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR, REVIEW WITH HIM OUR UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO DATE THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND INFORM HIM OF OUR CONCERN OVER DELAY IN RECEIVING FULL REPORT. OUR INTEREST, WHICH REFLECTS WELL-ESTABLISHED INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE, IS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEARN ALL FACTS OF CASE AS KNOWN TO HOST GOVERNMENT. IN

THIS INCIDENT SUCH A REPORT WOULD INCLUDE FULL FACTS REGARDING DETENTION, POLICE INTERROGATION AND DEATH OF FATHER CYPHER. WE ARE SURE GOH UNDERSTANDS USG HAS QUIETLY SOUGHT INFORMATION IN ORDER NOT COMPLICATE GOH

DIFFICULTIES. BUT GOH MUST UNDERSTAND THAT USG HAS OBLIGATION TO FAMILY OF CYPHER TO ENSURE THAT ALL FACTS RELEVANT TO HIS DEATH ARE UNCOVERED AND THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE WILL BE PROSECUTED UNDER HONDURAN LAW. WE CANNOT DISCHARGE THIS RESPONSIBILITY ON BASIS OF SUMMARY ACCOUNT OF INVESTIGATION COMMISSION REPORT AND THEREFORE MUST AGAIN INSIST ON FULL AND OFFICIAL ACCOUNT OF ALL CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING CYPHER'S DEATH.

3. FYI: WE DO NOT WISH TO BE DRAWN INTO SUBMITTING SPECIFIC LIST OF QUESTIONS SINCE SPECIFIC ANSWERS MIGHT NOT CONTAIN SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION. IF MELGAR SHOULD ASK WHAT FURTHER INFORMATION WE MAY NEED BEYOND THAT ALREADY GIVEN US, YOU MAY WISH TO USE AS ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES FACT THAT COMMUNIQUE DOES NOT ADDRESS WHY OR ON WHAT EVIDENCE CYPHER ARRESTED, TREATMENT AFFORDED IN PRISON, RELEASE INTO CONTROL MAJOR CHINCHILLA, SUBJECTS OF AND RESULTS OF INTERROGATION BY DIN, CIRCUMSTANCES OF INTERROGATION, AND REASONS WHY HE WAS KILLED AFTER INTERROGATION. KISSINGER

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